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Ms. Diane Auer Jones
Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-3100

RE: California State University, Stanislaus application for the Department of Education, Child Care Access Means Parents In School grant.

Dear Ms. Jones,

It is with great enthusiasm that my office lends its support to California State University, Stanislaus' (CSU Stanislaus) application for funding from the Department of Education for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School grant program. Faced with the growing number of student-parents on its campus, CSU Stanislaus has proactively begun to identify supportive resources for this population of students that is hindered by many obstacles.

CSU Stanislaus is a designated Hispanic Serving Institution located in the Central Valley, an impoverished region with high unemployment rates. The majority of students attending CSU Stanislaus reside in three neighboring counties: Stanislaus, Merced, and San Joaquin. All three of these counties qualify as "Opportunity Zones." These Opportunity Zones have few resources available to their low-income community, such as the lack of affordable, high quality childcare.

At CSU Stanislaus, 1 in 6 students has a dependent child. This already high statistic will continuously increase as more parents return to college with the hope to better their lives and the lives of their family. Currently, CSU Stanislaus has a small Child Development Center (CDC) that serves 65 families, but the administration understands that in order to help student-parents graduate, the CDC needs to expand its childcare services, as well as integrate more family friendly activities on campus.

As it stands, CSU Stanislaus' CDC is the only high quality childcare center within a 25-mile radius of the campus. Unfortunately, it does not offer a sliding scale tuition, making it nearly impossible for low-income student-parents to take advantage of the high quality child care that is on their campus. Without access to affordable child care, the likelihood of student-parents graduating, significantly decreases.

With the help of the CCAMPIS grant, CSU Stanislaus will expand its Childhood Development Center to accommodate 120 children, as well as, offer subsidized tuition for low-income families. Student-parents will also have the opportunity to attend educational events throughout the year. These events will include resources such as: parental guidance, mental health care, stress easing activities, and additional tools to promote student-parent success.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant proposal submitted by the California State University, Stanislaus. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Office's Grants Manager, Briana Gonzalez, at (209) 579-5458. I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Josh Harder